



Media Advisory

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Marks National Small Business Week April 12-13, 2006

The nation's best small business owners will join the U.S. Small Business Administration during ceremonies in Washington, D.C. to mark ***National Small Business Week***, and to honor the achievements of America's top entrepreneurs, including the announcement of the ***National Small Business Person of the Year***.

The annual observance of ***National Small Business Week*** is April 9-15, with events scheduled on April 12-13 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center. The two-day conference will focus on small business accomplishments, showcasing small businesses recovering from disasters. Four major awards will be presented, culminating with the announcement of the ***National Small Business Person of the Year***.

During ***National Small Business Week*** 2006, more than 100 outstanding small business owners from around the country will be honored. Small business honorees reflect the full range of business products, services and innovations offered by America's entrepreneurs.

This year's ***National Small Business Week*** honors will feature special awards ceremonies that include:

- ***National Small Business Person of the Year*** award to be presented from among the State Small Business winners.
- ***Champion Awards*** honoring individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting small businesses.
- ***Phoenix Awards*** for small business disaster recovery and outstanding contributions to disaster recovery.
- ***American Spirit Awards*** to recognize the accomplishments of small businesses and small business volunteerism for disaster areas that were impacted by hurricane Katrina, Rita or Wilma.
- ***Federal Procurement Awards*** for achievements in government contracting.
- ***Lender Awards*** recognizing lenders that have used SBA loan programs to support the growth of small businesses.

Editor's note: A schedule of events is attached.

Prior to National Small Business Week events:

To schedule an interview with an SBA spokesperson regarding *National Small Business Week* 2006 or schedule an interview with a *National Small Business Week* 2006 award winner, contact Cecelia Taylor at (202) 401-3059 or Dennis Byrne at (202) 205-6567.

To register for *National Small Business Week* 2006, for additional information, and for a list of winners, visit the SBA Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/sbw/>.

Schedule of Events (Subject to Change)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Procurement Awards Luncheon**
United States Chamber of Commerce, Hall of Flags
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Evening Reception honoring Lenders and Champion Award Winners**
United States Department of State, Ben Franklin Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

- 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Phoenix Awards Breakfast honoring Disaster Recovery**
Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Atrium Hall
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **State Small Business Awards Luncheon Honoring
State Small Business Winners**
Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Atrium Hall

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